countries. Steps are already under way to follow up on the necessary activities to commence implementation of the various projects. In addition, a liberalised trade regime to enhance bilateral commercial exchanges in general and Nepal's exports to India in particular, is being facilitated.

Proposal to issue Tax Free Road Bonds

594. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to U.Q. 3749 given in Rajya Sabha on 11th September, 1996 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under considertion of Government to issue Tax Free Road Bonds on the lines of Railway Bonds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is at conceptual stage sand it is too early to indicate the details thereof.

Break-Down of Telecom Facilities in West Godavari District

595. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a total break-down of telecom facilities in November, 1996 due to cyclone in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to restore such telecom facilities in West Godavari district;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the machinery available during such emergency to restore telecom facilities due to frequent break-downs in telecom operations in rural areas; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) There has been a large scale break-down of telecom facilities in West godawari District of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The restoration work is in progress on war footing. Resources have also been diverted from all over the country to restore services.Following restoration works have already been completed;

(i) No. of local exchanges restored completely— 82 out of 137.

(ii) No. of exchanges restored partially — 55. These will be fully restored as soon as AC Power Supply is restored by Electricity Authorities and trunk lines are repaired.

(iii) No. of local lines restored— 7488 out of 13528 affected.

(iv) No. of STD statiens— 62 out of 88.

(v) No. of Trunk systems restored— 39 out of 70.

(d) and (e) In rural areas whenever major break-downs occur due to natural calamities like floods and cyclones men and materials are diverted from nearby Divisions for immediate restorations. For restoring the trunk systems quickly, Digital Radio systems are installed as far as feasible for giving immediate relief.

Speedy Transmission of Mails

596. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps for the speedy transmission of parcels, money orders and mails;

(b) whether Government have also been making efforts to deliver the parcels, money orders and letters expeditiously; and

(c) if so, the progress made as on date and by when these services are expected to be the modernised in the entire country?